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AREA ONE HEADQUARTERS

Weekly Report

(February 1 to 7 Inclusive)

DOCUMENT NO. 10162/005
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 20-2
DATE: 8 Sept 80 REVIEWER: 248750

8 February 1945

BURMA-055
OP-43

AREA HEADQUARTERS

Area headquarters is at Mongwi SO 3836 with Major Sherman B. Joost, jr., commanding.

Repeated protests were sent into Base Headquarters over the failure of the battalions to secure supply drops on schedule. This failure has greatly hampered the battalions as they pushed toward their final goal - Lashio - and has threatened to disrupt the entire attack.

Major Joost flew into base at Bhamo on February 2 in an attempt to straighten out the supply situation. He was given every assurance that the matter would be settled once and for all but on the 7th of the month the First Battalion again failed to receive a scheduled drop.

The original complaints came from all the battalions which, during the past two weeks, have either gone hungry or had their scheduled moves delayed. The situation has threatened the morale of the Kachin troops quite seriously as they near Lashio where a pitched battle with the Japanese is anticipated.

It might be added here that no battalion supply request has ever been completely filled and that base has ^{seldom} never given them or this headquarters an explanation as to the discrepancies or the unavailability of specified items.

On February 1, The Third Battalion moved out of Mongwi and pushed south.

Five Indians who claimed to be former members of the Indian Army and had been living in the jungle away from the Japanese for the past two and one half years reported to Mongwi on the 5th with leaflets printed by the Detachment 101 Morale Operations Section suggesting that they

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and, in fact, all ^{refugees} ~~people~~ seeking the protection of the Allied forces should report to the nearest Allied headquarters where they would be given sanctuary. They were given rations here and told to report to Namhkam.

Arrivals at Mongwi

2/2 - Major Hamm from Bhamo via light plane.

2/3 - Major Joost from Bhamo via light plane.

Departures from Mongwi

2/1 - The entire Third Battalion.

2/2 - Major Joost for Bhamo by light plane. Sgt. Niven of the 3rd Battalion was evacuated because of illness by light plane. Lt. Varnson left on plane with Niven. An ill hyphenla was evacuated on Joost's plane.

Light Planes Used

2/2 Two planes used. One to take Major Joost to Bhamo. One to take Major Hamm here and carry Lt. Varnson and Sgt. Niven to Bhamo.

2/3 - Light plane brought Major Joost in from Bhamo.

2/4 - Light plane came in and attempted to make drop to Second Battalion but failed to locate panel. Returned to Bhamo.

2/5 - Light plane returned and picked up Major Joost and tried to drop to 2nd Battalion. Still no panel. Plane remained over night at Mongwi because of engine trouble.

2/6 - Another light plane flew in with mechanic and repaired other plane. Both planes returned to Bhamo.

2/7 - Light plane piloted by Sgt. Kessler came in and dropped codes to all battalions except 3rd which ^{was on move} ~~could not be located~~. Landed at the Fifth and Seventh Battalion strips. Evacuated a rescued fighter pilot, Lt. Stymank, who had baled out of plane near Lashio on November 30 and had been located by 5th Battalion of February 5. (See FIFTH BATTALION)

Supply Drops - C-47's

None Scheduled

Personnel Roster

Major Sherman B. Joost, jr., Area Commander
Major Newell Brown, Area Intelligence and Executive Officer
1st Lt. Robert R. Rodenberg, Area Reports and Supply Officer
2nd Lt. Archie L. Denham, Area Communications Officer
T/Sgt. Robert DeWeese, Medic
T/Sgt. John Karsen, Pigeon NCO
S/Sgt. Robert B. Cate, jr, Crypt NCO
T/4 Melbourne Rackett, Radio NCO
T/4 Soo W. Lim, Radio Operator and Maintenance
T/4 Roger Campbell, Pigeoner
Cpl. Lyle Estelle, Radio Operator
T/5 Jerry Genaw, Radio Operator
T/5 John Begverkov, Radio Operator
Pfc. Larrabee Johnson, Crypt
Pfc. Raymond Loraski, Crypt
Sp.2/c John Conley, Crypt
Mike (Soares), Radio Operator

Major Edward B. Hamm, Visiting

FIRST BATTALION

First Battalion headquarters is currently at Kaunghko ST 5969 with a drop ground at Man-Kang ST 6067. Captain Joseph Lazarsky is battalion commander.

This battalion's efforts have been seriously impeded through the failure of supply drops to materialize on time. They were scheduled a drop on January 31 but did not receive one - and that a partial one - until February 2. Captain Lazarsky registered a strong complaint which help^{ed} to prompt Major Joost's visit to base headquarters at Bhamo.

Again on February 7, a called for drop did not arrive. Captain Lazarsky registered another strong complaint which was forwarded to Bhamo. Major Joost also wired base for a solution to the critical supply question. Lazarsky claimed that the battalion lost four days' marchtime due to the first of the two drop mix-ups.

Captain Lazarsky made a two day reconnaissance of the Nam Tu River and found that it could be forded at Lauk-long at ST 5382 where it was only 26 inches deep. This fact was unknown to the Japanese, he claimed. He

then made plans for his battalion to cross at this point which it did on the 5th.

Meanwhile the Second Battalion had secured a bridge near Ta-Hkai at ST 6087 for the First Battalion to cross the Nam Tu. Lazarsky dispatched runners to and also wired the 2nd Battalion to withdraw the guard.

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Age/ Pat (British Captain Quinn) is currently with the First Battalion and has been with it for nearly two months. He is using its headquarters as his base of operations.

Positions of Battalion

2/1 - Hsai-hkao SO 5202.

2/5 - Battalion crossed river at Lauk-long ST 5385.

2/6 - Battalion at Kaunghko ST 5969.

Supply Drops - C-47's

2/2 - Partial food drop received.

2/3 - Rest of scheduled drop received. Still many shortages.

GI Personnel

Captain Joseph Lazarsky, Battalion Commander
Captain Robert B. C. Franklin, Area Medical Officer
1st Lt. Daniel Mudrinich
Lt. Stein
Lt. Hartman
Lt. Yemiski, Nisei
M/Sgt. Eric Eckhardt, Combat
1/Sgt Pettigrew, Medic
S/Sgt. Leander P. Jones, Crypt
Cpl. Bert Reeves, Radio Operator
Pfc. Robert V. Lewis (transferred from 3rd Battalion)
Gunner Oliver, Radio Operator COMBAT
Lt. Berg - MISSING IN ACTION

SECOND BATTALION

Battalion headquarters is currently at Loihsa ST 6576. 1st Lt. Phillip Grimwood is battalion commander.

The 2nd Battalion's movements also were seriously hampered at the first of the week through failure of drops to arrive on schedule. The intended crossing of the Nam Tu at Tahkai ST 6088 was threatened when a drop failed to materialize on the first. It was feared that the Japs might learn of their presence there and rush reinforcements to the scene. However, a drop was received on the 2nd and the battalion crossed without opposition. Lt. Grimwood states that his men were hungry but that they would continue onto Lashio despite the apparent lack of coordination between movements and supply.

A guard was left temporarily at the Tahkai bridge which was constructed by the battalion so that it could possibly be used by the First Battalion. The First Battalion did not use it but others might - ^{probably} ~~principally~~ the ^{Sixth} ~~Third~~.

An attempt was made to locate a landing strip in the vicinity of Namtaung ST 7384 when temporary headquarters was established at Loihsa.

At the end of the week the 2nd Battalion once again was held by the failure of drops to come through on schedule. On February 5 one plane load of clothing and a few rations were received and then on the 7th three days' rations were received. Both these drops were far from sufficient.

Operational Activity

2/7 - 10 Japs killed when the battalion struck a Japanese position between Hsenwi and Mong Yin at ST 6892. There were between 100 and 150 Japs in group.

Positions of Battalion

2/1 - Battalion headquarters at Loikaw ST 5394 with one company across Nam Tu at Tahkai ST 6088. A bridge was constructed there.

2/3 - Battalion at Loglem ST 6487 (not on map).

2/4 - Battalion headquarters at Loihsa ST 6576. Ambush positions were established on the Hsenwi-Mong Yin trail at ST 6286 and ST 5885.

2/7 - Company Distribution: Captain Barnwell with coy. at ST 7577, Lt. Larum with coy. and Lt. Fitzhugh with coy. at Manhtam ST 6874. Battalion headquarters at Loihsa.

Supply Drops - C-47's

2/2 - 2 plane drop received at Loikaw.

2/5 - 1 plane drop at Loihsa. Incomplete and very short.

2/7 - Three day ration drop received.

GI Personnel Roster

1st Lt. Phillip Grimwood, Battalion Commander

Captain Barnwell, Company Commander

1st Lt. Norman R. Larum, Company Commander

2nd Lt. Robert Fitzhugh, Company Commander

S/Sgt. Bernard Pruett, Crypt

Sgt. Hamda, Nisei

Sgt. Quentin Enos, Combat (Transferred from Third Battalion)

Cpl. Carl Nordsieck, Medic

Gersbeck

Gale

Sp.2/c Christopher Rubio, Radio Operator

Hans, Radio Operator

THIRD BATTALION

The 3rd Battalion was at Lauklong ST 5385 on February 7 preparing to ford the Nam Tu. It left Mongwi on the 1st. 1st Lt. Thomas T. Chamales is battalion commander.

Lt. Chamales secured permission on February 3 to attack pockets of Japanese troops south of Mong Yu at SO 7332 and 7833 instead of taking up a position along the Lashio front. This was called off by Chamales after it was discovered the Japanese were strongly outposted in the area and that the attack would take too long.

On February 3, Sgt. Enos was ordered to the 2nd Battalion and Pfc. Lewis to the 1st Battalion by Area One headquarters.

Sgt. Donald Niven was sent back to Mongwi on a litter when he became too ill from malaria and other ailments to carry on. He arrived ^{at} Mongwi on the 2nd and was evacuated by light plane that same day.

Locations of Battalion

2/2 - Namngun SO 6311 with the 6th Battalion.

2/5 - Man Pat SO 5404

2/6 - Namput ST 5993.

2/7 - Lauk-long ST 5385.

Supply Drops - C-47's

2/4 - 2 plane drop. Extra rice turned over to 6th Battalion.

GI Personnel Roster

1st Lt. Thomas T. Chamales, Battalion Commander
Captain Alvin Freudenburg, Executive Officer
1st Lt. Sam S. Woolington, Medical Officer
S/Sgt. Shigeto Mazawa, Nisei
Cpl. Robert Laurel, Combat
T/5 Heath Edwards, Medic
Pfc. Al Dobberstein, Combat
Pvt. Bouchea, Combat
Peter Garston, radio

FIFTH BATTALION

Fifth Battalion headquarters was at Loiman ST 5166 during the week.

Captain Lazum Tang is battalion commander.

On the 5th a grounded American fighter pilot named 2nd Lt. Albert W. Stybank of the 60th Fighter Squadron was brought in by a patrol from near the Nam Yao Railway bridge ST 5249. This pilot had bailed out of his plane on November 30, 1944, and had been harbored by the Kachins of the village of Nam Yao since that time. He was suffering from a broken arm but was not in great pain. The 5th Battalion requested that base drop the villagers ten bags of salt and some needles as a reward for harboring the pilot and protecting him from hostile Burmans and Shans. Stybank was evacuated on February 7 and taken to Bhamo via Mongwi. A light plane was used.

The battalion crossed the Nam Tu at Mong Yin ST 4481 on January 31 and at that time seized the headman of the village. He is still under custody.

The Kachins in the Loiman area are in dire needs of salt according to reports. A request for a 2,000 pound drop has been made.

This battalion also has had trouble with supply drops during the week. Sixty bags of rice that were not asked for were received on the 4th. An emergency ammunition drop requested for the 5th did not arrive on schedule.

During the week 5th Battalion patrols were throughout the area north of Lashio and went to the 10 and 18 mile ticks (ST 5562 and ST 4760 respectively) without meeting Japanese installations. Other patrols were in contact with the enemy ^{during} throughout the week.

Operational Activities

2/3 - 3 Japs were killed at the 10 mile tick ST 5562². They were passengers in a supply and ration truck of the Ford 2 1/2 ton type that was also demolished.

2/4 - 3 Japs killed at Hsampu ST 4567

2/4 - 2 Japs killed at Nahsai ST 4459.

Supply Drops - C-47's

2/3 - Small food drop.

2/4 - Drop of guns, ammunition and rice. The rice was not asked for and could not be used.

2/5 - Drop of clothing and equipment.

2/6 - Stilwell ration drop.

2/7 - Drop received.

Battalion Position

~~2/1-2/7-~~ The battalion was at Loiman ST 5166 with considerable scouting and patrolling throughout the area.

GI Personnel Roster

Captain Lazum Tang, Battalion Commander
Captain Arthur Brunstad
1st Lt. Walter O'Brien
2nd Lt. John E. Pangborn
S/Sgt. William Brough, Combat
Sgt. James McKinley, Medic
Cpl. Floyd E. Maves
Pfc. Warren Goodnight
Pfc. Theodore Chadsey, Radio and Crypt
"Sho" (Nickname of Nisei dropped in.)

SIXTH BATTALION

Sixth Battalion headquarters is still at Namngun SO 6311 where it is getting ready with its new recruits to march south toward Lashio. Major Kyaw Thu is battalion commander and Major Delaney is with him as an adviser and observer.

Throughout the week the companies have been in training and awaiting further and complete supply drops before taking to the trail. Patrols have been active.

The Third Battalion was at Namngun on February 2 and 3. It received a supply drop threr and turned over the excess rice to the Sixth Battalion. Two companies of the Sixth Battalion were prepared to join the Third Battalion on its trek north to the area south of Mong Yu and help annihilate scattered Japanese pockets there.

Two American Kachin Ranger patients were sent out by litter to Mongwi on the 5th. They were later sent to Bhamo by light plane.

Operational Results

2/5 - 1 Jap killed near Pangtawn SO 5018. He was unarmed and poorly equipped.

2/5 - 1 Jap, killed near Nongkam SO 6128. He was unarmed and was heading south.

2/2 Supply Drops - C-47's

2/2 - Drop intended for First Battalion received.

2/5 - One plane rice received.

2/7 - Drop of medical supplies, a radio receiver and rice received.

GI Personnel

Major Kyaw Thu, Battalion Commander
Major Delaney, ~~Observer~~ Observer
2nd Lt. Pierre D. Mead
Lt. Martin
Lt. Hanson
Lt. Wright
Proberg (GI)
Alley (Schiller), Radio Operator and Crypt

SEVENTH BATTALION

Seventh Battalion headquarters is currently at Hungwe ST 0572.

Major Peter Lutken is battalion commander.

On February 4 Joe Paul, an Anglo agent, accidentally shot himself in the leg. His condition was reported as not serious but it ^{emphasizes} brought about the need for a medical enlisted man for the battalion.

A strip suitable for light planes was completed on the 7th and the first plane flew in that day with the delivery of some codes. Sgt. Kessler was the pilot.

Ernie, Eric and Sausen parachuted into battalion headquarters on the 6th.

Operational Activities

2/4 - 1 Jap killed near Namai ST 0693. One American Kachin Ranger hypenla was wounded in the fracas.

2/7 - 6 of 20 Japs were killed during a four hour fight at Bawdwin mines ST 1774. One American Kachin Ranger was killed and two were seriously wounded.

Positions of Battalion

2/1 - 1 coy. to Hinbok ST 0777. Remainder headed for Hungwe.

2/2 - At Man Tawp.

2/3 - Battalion headquarters and 1 coy. at Hungwe. Other coys. at Hinbok ST 0777, Panghyen ST 0175 and Haitawng ST 0968.

2/7 - Unchanged.

Supply Drops - C-47's

The Seventh Battalion also suffered from bad supply drops during week.

A drop was requested for February 5 at Hungwe but had not been received through the 7th.

GI Personnel

Major Peter Lutken, Battalion Commander
T/5 Curtis Schultz, Radio and Crypt
Percy Unger, Radio Operator

Roberts
McCargar
Totten
Richardson
Russell

ALSO Ernie, Eric and Sausen